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Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Resource mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Statement submitted by the Friends Society in Social Service, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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* E/2004/100.

04-32605 (E) 270504

Following the invitation of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) to leading NGOs to achieve concrete results towards the Millennium Development Goal's implementation in partnership with the United Nations, Friends' Society in Social Service (FSSS), Calcutta has established a networking partnership among some like-minded NGOs/ Civil Societies and Governmental Bodies and conducting workshop and seminars on regular basis at Calcutta for more than a years. With the support of the Senior Inter-Regional Adviser and UN –NGO-IRENE Coordinator, NGO Section/ ECOSOC of UN-DESA a capacity building workshop was held in Calcutta during October 2003 to strengthen local NGO capacities and enhance their contribution to the ECOSOC work through exchange of innovative and result-oriented experiences.

The out-come of the workshop was the development of strong and committed networking partnership with well-defined and planned activities to contribute to the preparatory work for the High Level Segment of the ECOSOC of June 2004; FSSS organized and hosted a regional workshop in Calcutta on 2nd March 2004. The Regional Networking Partners from LDCs like, Bangladesh and the Convener of UN-NGO IRENE/ India were among the participants.

The proposals, recommendations and conclusions that FSSS was asked by the participants to present to the HLS of ECOSOC, were the result of a base level survey undertaken by FSSS as well as its discussions with the said networking partners during the whole year. The participants concluded that their contribution will focus on one major goal, i.e., "Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger". They also underlined on "Concrete Action for Population is emphasized with grass-root people's interventions".

A project document on a pilot comprehensive program on "Integrated Rural Development for poverty eradication in least developed areas and countries of South Asia" has been formulated with the support of UN-NGO-IRENE Project Coordinator of UN-DESA. The said project ultimately emerges on to the MDGs in partnership with the United Nations/ ECOSOC and other interested stakeholders.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION

- That FSSS with associate partners will address Millennium Development Goal "Eradication of Extreme Poverty and Hunger" with structural interventions emphasizing resource mobilization and creating enabling environment of networking for cooperation at local, national, regional and global levels.

- That FSSS explores opportunities to identify and select stakeholders in South Asian Region namely, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, (LDCs) & LDAs of Eastern India i.e., Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Tripura, & West Bengal.

- That FSSS shall strive for an effective mechanisms; technical cooperation; support and guidance from UN-DESA and formulate a "joint plan of action" to ensure a positive out-come to address the targeted goal within a time frame.

- That based on a participatory approach and to reach to the targeted goal, FSSS has designed and formulated a comprehensive project proposal to submit UN-DESA and as soon as possible, willing to implement this project in partnership with the United Nations.

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Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Statement submitted by the Foundation for the Social Promotion of Culture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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* E/2004/100.

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The Foundation for the Social Promotion of Culture (FPSC) is a Spanish NGO, working in cooperation for development since 1992. It is the first Spanish NGO in financial resources allocated and number of projects executed in the Southern Mediterranean shore and it also works in Asia, South America and Africa.

FPSC has obtained its special consultative status with ECOSOC in 2001.

In 2003 we participated to the high level segment of ECOSOC in the debate of 2003 on *"Promoting an integrated approach for rural development in developing countries to eradicate poverty and to achieve sustainable development"*.

For it, we have previously organized a preparatory workshop, in collaboration with the Euro-Arab Network of NGOs for Development and Integration (READI), composed of 41 NGOs from the southern and northern shores of the Mediterranean area. The workshop took place in April 2003in Madrid in the headquarters of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation, with the participation of 23 NGOs from 10 different countries from Africa, Asia, Europe and South America as well as the support of the senior interregional adviser from the United Nations/UNDESA, the UN-NGO-Informal regional Network (IRENE) Project Coordinator, NGO Section, ECOSOC, UNDESA.

The conclusions and recommendations were developed and adopted by the 23 NGOs present at the workshop as well as by the 41 NGOs affiliated to the READI.

These recommendations and conclusions were presented during the substantive session of the High Level Segment of ECOSOC held in Geneva in July 1, 2003 and a written statement was submitted to the ECOSOC. One of the adopted recommendations was to develop partnership programmes and projects on integrated approach for rural development with FPSC, READI, UNDESA and the NGOs present in the workshop as a concrete follow-up action to the ministerial Declaration and HLS ECOSOC Recommendations. I am pleased today to announce that this programme has been already submitted to UNDESA and is waiting only for its financial clearance. Also, it is important to underline that the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation expressed informally its interest to participate in the funding of some components of the project.

This program aims at promoting integrated rural development program to effectively contribute in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It is composed of 11 projects to be developed with 10 NGOs of 7 different countries and will be executed in partnership between the FPSC, READI and with the general coordination, follow-up and evaluation of UNDESA. It will be implemented in the least developed rural areas of Middle East and North African countries which poverty situation is very similar to the actual situation of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

This year FPSC and READI are also organizing an interregional preparatory meeting for the debate of ECOSOC high level segment on: *"Resources Mobilization and Enabling Environment for Poverty Eradication in the Context of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001- 2010"*.

A total of 34 NGOs from 15 different countries have already answered positively to the invitation to participate.

Since this year is the tenth anniversary of the International Year for the Family: IYF+10, we will focus our meeting and recommendations on a very concrete and important topic in cooperation for development: *the rule of the family in development, poverty eradication and peace-building*.

Our contribution would consist in a communication reflecting the experiences of NGOS for development in their understanding and boosting of the role of the family in the economical, social and sustainable development of their own country as well as in their fight against poverty and in the peace-building processes.

These propositions could serve as guidelines in order to elaborate strategies and programs to enable an environment for the eradication of poverty in the least developed countries and also to mobilize financial resources from private and public agencies.

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Statement submitted by Global Action on Ageing, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Global Action on Aging is a non-governmental organization that works on the social and economic issues facing older persons worldwide. We have taken up human claims of older persons caught in armed conflict. As you will recall, the United Nations adopted the Madrid Plan of Action Ageing in 2002 that called on governments to "protect and assist older persons caught in armed conflicts and foreign occupation." Today, more than 30.5 million older persons live in the Least Developed Countries and constitute 5% of their population. In many Least Developed Countries, elderly face extremely difficult circumstances. At least two-thirds of these elder citizens find themselves in a land where armed conflict is underway or has occurred during the past decade.

We ask this High Level Segment to advocate for special protective measures for older perso caught in armed conflict and during the instability that frequently follows. The elderly in Least Developed Countries have much to contribute, but they can be especially vulnerable in times of cris famine and war. The international community is scarcely aware of the special difficulties faced by older persons in such crises. Humanitarian and relief agencies, as well as the United Nations, have developed programs to attend to the needs of children, women, and humanitarian workers, but they have scant knowledge of older persons and virtually no programs or guidelines for their protection.

The conflicts in today's world usually take a heavy toll on civilian populations and give rise tens of millions of refugees and displaced persons. As a result, the elderly are seriously at risk. Organizations working on the rights of older persons have expressed increasing concern and called f positive measures by international organizations to protect affected older persons.

The international community recently took important steps to strengthen the protection of other vulnerable groups – children, women and humanitarian workers – caught in situations of arme conflict. Thus far, however, little has been done to protect older persons. In 1999, for example, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 1261, enunciating its commitment to the protection of children. Similarly, the Council set out its commitment to the protection of women in Resolution 1325 of 2000. A number of other Council resolutions and Presidential statements refer to these issue and the UN has set up special programs to monitor them. These precedents show the way for elder advocates, but they demonstrate a large gap in the awareness and action of the international community on elder rights.

Some preliminary steps on older persons suggest the emerging concern. A 2000 Help Age International report entitled "Older People in Disasters and Humanitarian Crises" sets forth guidelin based on interviews in a number of crisis areas. In 2000, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees adopted a new "Policy on Older Refugees" that identifies the special plight of older persons displace in conflict. Then in 2002 the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing called on the international community to protect and assist older persons in situations of armed conflict and foreig occupation. Delegations from 158 nations adopted the Plan of Action that was later confirmed by th UN General Assembly. Though these developments are encouraging, much remains to be done befo protection can become a reality on the ground for vulnerable older persons.

Global Action on Aging suggests that the Economic and Social Council use the innovative structure of its Ad Hoc Advisory Groups to address the needs and skills of older persons in the

delicate period when countries move from armed conflict to post-conflict to development. The Ad Hoc Advisory Groups to Guinea-Bissau and to Burundi examined the humanitarian and economic needs of these countries. They advised the national leadership on managing the transition and attracting international funding. This 2004 High Level Segment has examined these two reports revealing substantial positive change after years of conflict. Each Ad Hoc Advisory Groups focused attention on the countries' progress and their internal and external needs, such as debt relief, market access and overcoming obstacles to economic recovery while rebuilding their devastated nations.

Global Action on Aging asks the Economic and Social Council to include the protection of older persons as an important element in future Ad Hoc Advisory Groups' plans in other post-conflict locations where they may be established. In conflict areas, older persons often do not leave their homeland due to mobility issues and other reasons. They face banditry, dispossession of homes and land, isolation and sometimes ethnic "cleansing." However, older persons often can assist in peace building and community reconciliation so needed after wars.

Specifically, we suggest that the Economic and Social Council

- Encourage UN agencies to gather concrete information and develop programs to document and address older persons' situation in armed conflict and during the post-conflict period
- Press for new mandates in UN agencies and the Security Council that include the needs of older persons
- Determine that special measures must be taken to assure that older persons receive humane treatment and opportunities to contribute to post-conflict reconciliation and development
- Emphasize the positive effect that older person can have in mediation, crisis-prevention, peace-building and community solidarity

As a Non Governmental Organization, Global Action on Aging will

- Gather and disseminate information from scholars, journalists, humanitarian workers and other sources about older persons in conflict and crisis
- Bring together experts to deepen shared understanding of the issues and problems, as well as funding support from non-governmental organizations

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Statement submitted by the Institute of International Social Development, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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04-32638 (E) 070604

INSTITUTE'S OPINION ON THE POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMS THAT COULD BE CARRIED OUT IN THE LDCs

As the least developed countries are mostly overpopulated and access to resources by the people at large is not equitable, the best solution for enhancing Poverty Alleviation would be to encourage Self-Employment schemes so that skill-based support is available to the suffering population in terms of financial and non-financial support and an infrastructure is provided for the people to free Primary Healthcare and at least free functional literacy, if not Secondary, education both for adults and children.

This integrated approach would save the LDCs from the destiny of disaster and would save the world from being a silent witness to such destruction and make a mockery of the of the tall claims of scientific advancement and a progressive society.

As per the experience of the Institute, it is quite positive that if Self-Help Groups are encouraged like in Bangladesh, not only would the people learn to earn their livelihood and become less dependent on external benevolence, but would also benefit the world population with affordable services and products due to the low-cost production cost with negligible overhead.

Our Approach For Forming SELF-HELP GROUPS in the underprivileged sectors.

1) Conduct a Baseline Survey, which would reflect the demographic configuration, local skills, local natural resources, local health hazards and local literacy level.
2) Based on the findings a systematic strategic planning should be made to address the local education and health problems.
3) Taking the local skills, which could utilize the natural resources available locally into consideration, training could be conducted to teams of people of the same type of skills or complementary skills on marketing their acumen by way of services or products.
4) Soft loans could be released to these teams as they would have fiduciary responsibility collectively and chances of non-return of loan amount is near to nil as per our experience, specially with women participation in the teams. These teams would henceforth function as Self-Help Groups and would be totally responsible for all financial and non-financial transactions that they collectively would undertake for enhancing business.
5) To avoid middleman exploitation, the local authorities should deploy Non-Profit Organizations to pursue the Market for these Self-Help Groups, monitor their administrative documentation and supervise on any leakage in the system so as to avoid the termination of the economic progress.
6) Finally, the local authorities need to get an annual feedback of the income variance of the members of the Self-Help Groups to assess the financial progress and the improvement in the purchasing power of these people.
7) The trades, which are usually having quick returns, are products, which are Agro-based items of utility, assembling jobs, handicrafts and handloom items. Services, which as per experience, appear to be rewarding are: Food business, beauty parlor, tailoring, construction jobs, transportation, etc.
8) With the simultaneous support in the Health and Education Sector these LDCs would take not more than a decade to update themselves to be at par with the other more developed Nations .The world would be fortunate to restore some ancient heritage cultures from disappearance and thus become more enriched.

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Statement submitted by the International Movement ATD Fourth World, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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* E/2004/100.

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"Together, knowing that we are all people, we can all strengthen humanity by respecting each other." These are the words of a young people who was living on a shipwreck remains in Dar-es-Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania.

The challenges faced in the United Republic of Tanzania and in other Least Developed Countries are formidable, as has been highlighted throughout the preparatory meetings for this High-Level Segment. As the international community continues trying to harness financial resources for poverty eradication, these young people and others like them want to offer their human resources to help change the social exclusion that can propagate poverty from one generation to another.

Through their life experiences, their daily suffering, their perennial exclusion from the development of their community, they challenge us to adopt innovative approaches to mobilizing resources and shaping an enabling environment. What is their role in these processes? Their full participation in this process is essential for eradicating poverty.

People living in poverty may lack job qualifications or literacy skills but are able to apply their life experience, not just to change their own situation, but also to help shape a future vision of humanity.

The United Republic of Tanzania is the biggest East African country of about thirty-three million of inhabitants, where eighty percent live in villages. Around 3 million people live in the capital, Dar-Es-Salaam, with half of them living in poverty.

When young people arrive in Dar-Es-Salaam, they come to stay, but they do not find what they are looking for. Most of them will find themselves living on the beach and looking for work at the fish market, because this is their only hope for survival. Most of them once benefited from programs organized by NGOs and official agencies but they are now considered too old. How can the relationship between young people living in extreme poverty and society change ?

The International Movement ATD Fourth World is a non-governmental organization that engages individuals and institutions in support of the efforts of the very poor to free themselves from extreme poverty, founded by F[r] Joseph Wresinski in 1957 in Noisy-Le-Grand. Today, ATD Fourth World's Volunteer Corps runs projects in 30 countries in Asia, Europe, Africa and the Americas. It has correspondents in more than 100 countries through the "Permanent Forum on Extreme Poverty in the World," a network for sharing experiences about fighting poverty. ATD Fourth World is not affiliated with any political party or religion.

Nick Tweehyssen and Andrew Hayes, members of the Fourth World Volunteer Corps, share their experience of work with the youths living on the beach at the fish market place in Dar-Es-Salaam, in the United Republic of Tanzania:

"Since 2000, our presence here has been summed up in two questions:

"How can we learn from the people who have a strong commitment to those who suffer from living in poverty? How can we understand the lives of people living in poverty?"

"We traveled extensively throughout the country to renew ties with people who were already in contact with us. These people led us to other contacts and taught us the meaning of being committed to fighting for the poorest here in the United Republic of Tanzania.

"We noticed that many people we meet consider themselves poor but at the same time are able to overcome the difficulties of their lives by relying on strong family ties, strong relations within their community or because of their friends. the United Republic of Tanzania is a place where people support each other.

"One member of ATD Fourth World told us, 'Before, when I went to the fish market, I went to look for fish but now I have learned to look at the market in a different way. Now I have learned to pay attention to the person who is selling or cleaning the fish.'"

Reaching The Poorest

Through regular visits with the poor youths living in the streets of Dar-Es-Salaam, a Fourth World volunteer discovered a group of families whose existence was unknown by the neighboring communities and institutions. They live in beached ships that are earmarked to be sold as scrap. Access to the ships is possible only at low tide. There are many people squatting in these shipwrecks. Many children have been excluded from the overcrowded drop-in centers for children living in the street because, being past the age of 12, they no longer qualify for help. These young adolescents do not get any support from the community centers and programs run by the government. They feel abandoned.

In the past, at the old fish market, many of the poor young adolescents living in the street could earn a bit of money doing odd jobs, such as cleaning fish, helping the fish sellers, collecting firewood. These jobs provided them with enough money for a small meal or a piece of fruit.

Recently, local government, with financial support from the government of an industrialized country replaced the fish market with a modern structure that will house the vendors and some local services. However, due to a lack of consultation in the planning phase and the resulting misunderstanding of the informal aspects of the present fish market, many of these poor youths, as well as other very poor market workers, found themselves excluded from the market reforms and lost their livelihoods. One respected vendor, a member of the Fourth World Movement, found himself faced with the difficult responsibility of deciding which vendors would be invited to relocate to the new market, and which would not. He was worried when he learned of the effects his decisions, taken on behalf of the developers, would have on those excluded from the new market. Knowing that only some of the original vendors would be allowed within the new market structure, he exercised diplomacy and creativity in trying to keep the greatest number of vendors employed. He tried to negotiate with competitors so that they could collaborate or share booths, and created a "waiting list" of vendors to be considered for booths

should new space become available at a later date. Despite these efforts, it was inevitable that some of the market vendors would be excluded from the new market.

In the planning and implementation of sustainable development programs, policies and projects, the poorest must be included from the outset. If taken into account, their life experience and knowledge can contribute to a successful partnership between developers and the community and can promote unity in the community towards a common goal that can benefit the whole of the community including the poorest. In reality the poorest are all too often completely ignored.

Mobilization and Commitment of Youths Living in Poverty

These youths are often blamed for their lack of participation and responsibility within their community which in turn leads them to be marginalized and excluded.

Regular visits and meetings organized at the fish market enable them to talk about the hardships of their lives and to offer each other support. Bringing them together builds strong commitment to each others' wellbeing.

Often those who have found work during the day will buy food for those who have none; they visit friends who are in prison or in the hospital. They show a great deal of camaraderie and solidarity to one another.

Through building a relationship of trust, Fourth World Volunteer Corps members have succeeded in helping these youths realize that they are able to contribute to the development of their community and their country.

ATD Fourth World organized a one-week workcamp, with some of the youths, in Moshi in a residential school for blind children. Adults and youths repaired beds and desks and painted the walls for the community around the school. The young people felt proud to have contributed to the future of the blind children and realized that they had something to offer the community. Involvement in such a project brought poor youths together from various neighborhoods, encouraging them to support one another.

Paul's Testimony

Paul, 22 years old, is one the youths met at the fish market. He finds it very hard to imagine a future for himself, but the difficult conditions in which he lives do not prevent him from being a spokesperson for others.

He relates: "With a number of friends I was sleeping behind an enclosure on a piece of ground in the city center. I had been chased away from somewhere else and thought I could sleep there without too many problems. But all of a sudden the police came and I found myself in prison.

They accused us all of vagrancy. We young people must speak loud and clear. We must come together like a family to ensure the rights and responsibilities of each and everyone.

"Nobody chooses the place where they are born. It could be a place where life is hard or a place where life is more comfortable. For this reason we must all respect each other, because we are all human beings. Millions of children live in very difficult conditions, some because they have lost their parents and some because of the poverty of their family. One of the consequences of this difficult life is that some of these children, at a very young age, will leave their town or village and start living a difficult life on the streets of big towns or cities like Dar-Es-Salaam.

See also: "Partnerships with People Living in Persistent Poverty, the Missing Partners in Sustainable Development," submitted by ATD Fourth World to the World Forum on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 2002.

"They will look for a little work during the day and maybe they will earn just enough for a plate of rice. Living this way is dangerous not just for their health, but because they also risk being accused of stealing. Today we are seen as vagabonds and vagrants, and we risk being thrown into prison at any time; but we were born in this country and we want to do everything so as to earn a living legally. We wash cars, clean fish, even crush stones to make gravel. But many of us never went to school, so we don't know the rights that would protect us. We need our leaders to support us so that we can live freely. Time spent in prison is time that is lost. If we are put in prison, and nobody knows where we are, it is like we don't exist anymore. It is almost as if we don't have an identity.

"Everything starts with the family, where one should be able to live a decent life with good relationships between its members. Good relationships with society will lead to good conduct. Parents can give moral training to their children so that they can live these good relations with society. We all know what we want for those that we are close to. Listening to and showing respect to those around us can lift people out of their isolation. One can share ideas regardless of where one comes from. We can overcome poverty when we live like a family. In this way, the poor will not be ashamed of their situation but instead will feel supported and regain hope for the future."

Drawing on what he has been through in his years on the streets, Paul calls on others to think about the meaning of personal identity. Examples such as these reveal some facets of the social, and often physical, isolation that is characteristic of extreme poverty all over the world.

Creating Dialogue and Encouraging Mutual Understanding

Creating dialogue and partnerships with the poorest in achieving sustainable development is imperative for the following reasons:

Stakeholders living in poverty possess knowledge that is crucial for sustainable development programs.

Dialogue with them encourages mutual understanding and dispels misconceptions which may lead to conflicting goals and initiatives between the different stakeholders.

It brings the voice of the poorest, individuals, families and communities to the decision-making table. The very poor themselves will thereby be encouraged to contribute to the sustainability of development efforts.

Recommendations:

The Economic and Social Council can play an important role in recognizing and promoting the active participation of people living in extreme poverty in the development of their community and country.

The process of accountability for poverty reduction strategies and service delivery in the Least Developed Countries rarely reaches the poorest stakeholders in a given community. Actively seeking the participation of these stakeholders and amplifying their voice from the outset can help to ensure that development efforts do not exclude the people they are intended to help.

Mobilizing resources and enabling environment must support more participatory approaches to poverty eradication. This must help to generate a more comprehensive and effective understanding of the causes of extreme poverty and the condition that prevent people from getting out of the poverty cycle.

NGO involvement is essential for the successful implementation of the above recommendations. They can be a vital bridge between governments and international institutions and people living in extreme poverty. More consultation, support and resources should be provided to them accordingly to enable them to fulfill this role.

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Statement submitted by the International Multiracial Shared Cultural Organization, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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* E/2004/100.

04-32719S (E) 020604

In reply to the 50 per cent plus unemployment among black men in least developed communities like Harlem and Brooklyn, New York, around the country and world, I wish to present a different point of view for immediate release with the hope that action will be taken within the United Nations and Member States to help combat this growing trend that can only end in major conflict if left unattended.

The main and most pressing problem facing peoples in least developed countries is not obtaining aid, but rather obtaining direct links with their natural trading partners in least developed communities in developed countries.

A way forward: the good news

An African Government has allotted five million barrels (revolving) of crude oil to an African-American organization in a business exchange agreement aimed at creating opportunities in the United States of America and Africa for least developed business cultures. International Multiracial Shared Cultural Organization (IMSCO), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, and its affiliate, AMRE Trade Oil, have been granted major crude oil allotments and mineral concessions in Africa. It is our hope that a large part of the proceeds from these projects will be used to help grow a sustainable business culture in the African-American communities across the United States and Africa. IMSCO officials believe that if the two communities continue to combine efforts, this and other related projects would benefit African-Americans' political and economic clout in this election year and job opportunities will continue to grow. To speed up the implementation of the projects, the United States Department of State and the Energy Department are supplying ongoing advocacy support.

One reason for the present statement and for requesting government, community and organizational support is to improve IMSCO project advocacy support to lobby the offices of senators, such as Hillary R. Clinton, in Washington, D.C., including those of select mayors, for assistance in obtaining purchasing agreements for refined products that would create the finished materials to provide additional sustainable businesses and medium-to-high-end jobs. So far, all requests for support by IMSCO to Senator Clinton, and other elected officials, with budgets of more than $80 billion a year, have been refused.

IMSCO seeks community and media support to gain cooperation from elected officials. IMSCO asks the media immediately to contact IMSCO and elected officials to promote this aim. IMSCO requests that a state-wide community meeting be held in each state to discuss ways this and other diaspora projects might help create businesses and jobs opportunities that will benefit all Americans. IMSCO would request that banks, investors and lenders attend. IMSCO seeks to better inform the public on how this important project will help defeat attacks on American citizens, economic interests, strategic metals and supply lines.

The bad news

After centuries of attacking and attempting to oppress the African male out of existence in the United States' own back yard, it will now likely come as a shocking blow to both the national pride and the pocketbooks of Americans when they learn, by way of the "resources war" (the terrorist war), that the Russian Federation and black Africa have more complete control of the world's strategic metals, including

vast untapped crude oil and gas reserves, than the Arab States have of Middle East petroleum and gas reserves.

The British Broadcasting Corporation reports that 98 per cent of Africa's population on the continent sees no way forward and agrees with many of the enemies of the United States. Together with the seriously incapacitated Russian Federation these two combined forces control 89 per cent to 99 per cent of the world's supply of strategic minerals: 96 per cent of the chrome; 99 per cent of the platinum group metals; 98 per cent of the manganese; 89 per cent of the diamonds; 68 per cent of the gold, and uranium; and 40 per cent of the vanadium, to name just a few.

The United States Department of State and a growing number of Americans are aware that the enemies of the United States are using the fact that the United States is beggar-poor in strategic metals and are cutting our supply lines one by one, while a seemingly blind American elite brushes aside the African and African-American communities' request for cooperation in developing direct business links with each other as natural trading partners. By attacking and imprisoning a large segment of black men who have been denied a higher education to protect their families and contribute to society, it now turns out black men may be the only American citizens who are able to protect many of the jobs in the United States, the needs for strategic metals and the crucial supply lines between Africa and the United States without sending a hostile word or firing a single bullet.

If African-American men in New York and across this rich nation are massively unemployed, in need of higher educational training to obtain quality jobs, obtain health care and proper shelter for the family, so too is the rest of the United States at risk of the same. Strategic minerals and the raw materials needed by the United States and her allies and industries to make the products that American jobs depend on daily do not come from Queens, New York or Kansas; they come from dark and hostile continents few Americans dare to enter.

Good news bad news

Terrorists are aware, and the world is a witness, of the fact that the United States is dangerously vulnerable in the above-mentioned strategic minerals. But, rather than cooperate with the black man, white America blockades African foreign policy interests in international business culture, development and linkage. Would it not be a wise move for America and Europe to embrace the hands that feed them, with their vast lands and wealth, as natural trading partners, instead of foolishly promoting favouritism towards regions that produce nothing for the United States but threats to its national security? At least, there would be a kind of balance.

I hope the United States will immediately come to its senses and begin to support diaspora linkage and publicly discuss ways and local federal government and communities can combine efforts to support, for example, economic foreign and domestic policies that will ensure business and job-generating resources, skills, contracts and concessions that can be secured by all American diverse diaspora communities that have powerful links to strategic interests in troubled areas around the world before it is too late.

If Americans wish to save their jobs and protect their way of life, then I suggest we look around and ask ourselves what the many products are made of,

where the raw materials come from, what we can trade and who we can cooperate with to ensure a continued supply of these strategic materials.

I strongly suspect that brutal attacks will continue on men and women of colour in the near future because a few economically elite men and women in our fearful society "cannot handle the truth!".